



CBKA - August 2013



August 2013 Newsletter – Colin Marshall - Ed

Chairman – Mark Stott
Secretary – Joyce Atkinson
Treasurer - Tamar Devane

Extended Newsletter available on line

Apiary meetings this month are on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month ie 11th and 25th August also 8th September and 22nd September (final regular meeting of the year) at 2.30 pm

Terry Stephensmith 1947-2012

The coming of summer heralded flower shows, fetes and fairs, with the subsequent requests for our bees and honey. This year has been tinged with sadness as we have lost one of our stalwart members.

Terry was always the first to arrive at a show, identifying our plot, erecting the gazebo, setting out the honey display and very often bringing the bees in their observation hive. Although quiet and unassuming, when answering questions posed by the public, he was a font of knowledge. He had a particular affinity with children, always giving an explanation at their level, literally in both senses of the meaning.

Terry started keeping bees in 1979 and had been a member of Croydon division for many years, taking an active interest in the Society. He was always willing to help with practical activities at the apiary and was a long standing Committee member. As well as being “minutes secretary” he would contribute to discussions, asking pertinent questions and offering and offering opinions and solutions when he felt there was an alternative point of view which needed to be aired.

As well as his extensive interest and knowledge of bees, Terry had an eclectic taste in music, especially from the 60's. He had a love of language and words (which he passed on to his daughter, Bonnie).

This was exemplified when a member of the public asked him if he was a “beekeeper”. “No” he replied modestly, “I am not a beekeeper, I only keep bees”.

Website and Members' Survey

1. Members will be pleased to learn that our website is up and running again but with a changed address:
www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk
2. Thank you to all our members who have completed our on-line survey (20 at the time of writing): it will certainly help your committee to plan next year's programme. We will let everyone have an analysis later in the year and in the meantime will be sending out copies to those of us who normally have addressed copies of the newsletter. If you have not yet completed it online, please do so:
<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/68381UNXRT> should take you to the site.

News from the Apiary

Our regular maintenance team continues to meet on Thursdays during the day; please do feel to join us if you are free.

The two divisional hives that survived the winter vandalism (followed by the very cold spring) continue to build slowly - much more progress in the last few weeks. We must give our very grateful thanks to Mark Stott, Mags Scott and Colin Marshall who instantly stepped into the breach to loan and donate hives for teaching purposes: we now have seven hives available for regular Sunday sessions.

Our newly planted crab apple hedges are coming on well although the ever present Roe Deer still remain a threat (saplings fenced for the time being). The two meadow and wild seed beds are now a blaze of colour, although only visited by hover flies and bumbles; our Sedum bed provided a tasty meal of flower buds for the Deer a few weeks ago – so not much anticipated there.

We are much encouraged!

Best wishes from - The More Cheerful Drone.

Things to do in August :

Traditionally this is the month that we are looking to harvest our bumper crops of honey, alas this year I'm sure that that many of us will be glad to just get through the year without losing any bees. In addition to extracting the honey we should be thinking about varroa and the removal of such. Remember we have a new weapon at our disposal MAQS which because of the way it acts may allow us to harvest our honey crop just a little bit later. Another thing to consider will be that we will need to feed our bees in preparation for winter, yes it's that time already.

The Examinations Board has decided to offer ALL modules at both the March and November sessions in 2014. Uptake of the modules at both sessions has been so positive that there is a significant need for all modules to be available, particularly for resits.

Events

24-26 Oct - National Honey Show, St Georges College Weybridge.

Mon 7 Oct from 6pm to 9pm - London Honey Show at Lancaster London Hotel including the Awards Ceremony with the Beecraft sponsored Beekeeper of the Year Award. Entry only £1 with all proceeds going to Bees for Development. Stalls will include food and drink; arts and crafts; beekeeping equipment; beauty products, and more.

7th Dec - Surrey AGM at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Claygate. Celia Davis, guest speaker on 'Doing Things Better'.

Notes - Dear Member,

Just to let you know that thanks to Colin Marshall (our Webmaster) and myself our website is up and running again but under a different address: www.croydonbeekeepers.org.uk

On another matter, if you received and read the July Newsletter you will be aware of the Croydon Beekeepers Feedback Form that we have organised on-line : www.smart-survey.co.uk/s/68381UNXRT

It is 15 questions that will give your committee some feedback on how our members feel about our programme and how we operate.

To date only 7 members have completed the survey although many more have started but not completed. I do need to point out that we are unable to access partially completed versions, so we would urge you to complete all the questions. An answer is required for every question (some single answer only, others multiple answer) and you will not be able to advance to the next page until answers are completed. It is meant to be a quick completion and we would appreciate a quick return so we can get a feeling for how we are doing.

If you only wish to receive the BeeCraft and BBKA membership plus Insurance, we would also like to know that as well, so please do complete - I think there are sufficient 'not applicable' or similar answers to allow you to complete.

A pdf version of the questionnaire is attached for your information. - www.smart-survey.co.uk/s/68381UNXRT

Thanks and best wishes - David Shepherd

Local Agent for E.H. THORNE (Beehives) Limited

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London Honey Show 2013 At Lancaster London

Bees, beekeepers, and bee associations across Britain are buzzing with excitement at the return of the London Honey Show 2013. Lancaster London is delighted to announce it will be organising and hosting the third annual event on Monday 7 October 2013 from 6pm.

The London Honey Show is a celebration of bees and beekeeping, with friendly competition between new and experienced beekeepers alike. The show also aims to inspire non-beekeepers in a young and fun way.

Those attending the show will be able to visit stalls and exhibits, enjoy talks from bee experts, and perhaps most importantly sample some of the delicious honey they produce. The array of exciting stalls will be segmented into “zones” including: Food & drink; Arts & crafts; Beekeeping equipment; Beauty products; Hives & garden decorations... and much more.

The event promises to be bigger and better than the last and will be held in the hotel’s Westbourne Suite, which has a capacity for 1500 people. The show will also include a children’s craft centre, a display area for local school projects, plus a large selection of hives on show.

The highlight of the show will be the awards ceremony. Categories include:

- Best Home Honey
- Best Rooftop Honey
- South versus North of the Thames
- Best Business Honey
- Best Honey Packaging

The most anticipated award of the evening is the coveted “London Beekeeper of the Year 2013”, in association with BeeCraft Magazine. The King or Queen Bee of 2013 will be presented with an impressive plaque and the honour of being London’s best beekeeper. Last year’s winner was Sharon Bassey, who was commended for her enthusiasm and tireless work in the world of beekeeping.

Entry to the show is £1, with all money going to “Bees for Development”. The body assists beekeepers living in poor and remote areas of the world, lifting them out of poverty through beekeeping. There will also be a tombola, with all funds raised going to the charity.

Lancaster London has ten bee hives on its second floor roof. Last year the bees worked hard to produce an impressive 80kg of honey from just three of the hives, which is served in the hotel’s restaurant Island Grill.

Lancaster London, Lancaster Terrace, London W2 2TY
Reservations on 020 7551 6000 or visit www.lancasterlondon.com

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For further information or photography, please contact:
Martyn Hannah or Alison Hull at Luxe PR on 020 7368 3330 or martyn@luxep.com

I am currently studying Interior Architecture and Design at Leeds Metropolitan University. In preparation for my third year project, I am beginning to gather as much information as I can this summer. As part of my project I will be redesigning the space of an existing building, reusing and recycling materials creating a new interior and external space.

A rough outline of my brief, that I have chosen, is to design a space for the safeguarding of bees as well as to promote the importance of the existence of bees. Children and Adults will be able to come and watch beehive demonstrations as well as purchase local hive products. (Please note this is fictional) However, we are encouraged to work as close to reality engaging with real clients. In particular, I am deeply interested in the structure of **bee-bole walls**.

If possible, please could you inform me of any large exterior walls with the remains of bee-boles carved within, that are open to the viewing public. Furthermore, any farm houses with external bee-bole walls that are similarly open to view in the Surrey area.

Any other information would be greatly appreciated. Thank You.

Catherine Sachdev

Email: catherinesachdev@hotmail.com

Or Contact: 07518 011 729

To Whom It May Concern

I am contacting you about [Sense About Science's plant science panel](#). The aim of this panel is to give members of the public a chance to put their questions and concerns about plant science related issues (for example issues around the environment, plants and food) directly to scientists. It is an open and ongoing invitation from the research community to anyone who wants to take part.

Would members and/or supporters of the Surrey Beekeepers' Association be interested in the work of the panel? Please do tweet, Facebook or add it to any newsletter you are producing. To promote the panel we have also produced [postcards containing all the information needed](#) to contact the scientists involved, and would be happy to send you some for your organisation. Could I send you some to use in any outreach activity you may do.

If you are interested please let me know how many postcards you would like and also the address to send them to.

Kind Regards - Federico

NDB short courses

These are two day courses of lectures, workshops and practical work led by two NDB-qualified tutors. The class sizes are kept small (only 10) which allows for a high level of personalised attention. Currently they are eligible for a £100 subsidy from Fera so that the student cost for the two days is just £75; light lunches included.

Two courses are scheduled, "Brood diseases of the honey bee" on 9,10 September and "Microscopy for beekeepers" on 16,17 October.

The brood diseases course will examine all of the brood conditions, looking at the infective organism, diagnosis, the spread within and between colonies, treatments, pre-emptive measures and there will be extensive, hands-on work with diseased combs, kindly provided by the NBU. The overall aim is to provide delegates with comprehensive coverage of the brood diseases.

Microscopy for beekeepers is a course which, above all, aims to make students entirely comfortable with the use and correct set-up of the various types and styles of microscopes they are likely to encounter. There will be a little basic theory of lenses and magnification, sessions on buying and maintaining these instruments and we will also spend some time on each of the common beekeeping applications - acarine, nosema, examination of pollen and some anatomy and dissection of the honey bee. Students are encouraged to bring and use their own microscopes although high quality instruments are available at KSRC.

Full details and application forms are available from http://www.national-diploma-bees.org.uk/short_courses.htm

